

Markets & Business

Shipley, the Rohm and Haas speciality chemical subsidiary has sold its dry film photoresist used in PWB to Eternal Chemical Co, Taiwan, which will manufacture a wide portfolio of products that Shipley will distribute in North America and Europe.

Teradyne Inc has opened an 84,000 ft² Shanghai facility to supply test systems for a broad range of semiconductor devices, PCB test and inspection systems, connectors, backplanes and complex system integration test services. The first Teradyne test system in China, a T317, was added in 1979 to the Guangzhou Eastern Factory. Among recent orders are Global Advanced Packaging Technology taking the first Tiger test system in China for use in GAP's Zhangjiang Hi-Tech park facility.

Oxford Instruments Superconductivity is to join the UK Cryogenic Instrumentation for Quantum Electronics Collaboration. It will supply cryogenic consultancy and an ultra low temperature (ULT) system to enable the extremely low temperature environments for research into quantum electronics, quantum computing and quantum nano-technology.

Among the latest China settlers, wireless power amplifier provider Unity Wireless Corporation of Canada opened in Shenzhen. New customers resulted in Veeco Instruments Inc opening a Shanghai office, as has Helix Technology Corporation located at Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park, Shanghai. In the geographical periphery, STMicroelectronics is to invest \$250m over the next three years to expand chip production in Singapore while Motorola is to set up an R&D facility in Western Australia.

Microlithography up for grabs

FSI International is to discontinue its microlithography business and exclusively focus on surface conditioning tools. For fiscal 2002, ended August, microlithography revenue represented \$61mn, 43%,

of the company's total revenue of \$143mn. Some 292 of 710 employees work here. In January, FSI said that it was pursuing strategic partners for microlithography and will continue to support the installed

base of products. The company is believed to have over 400 Polaris systems installed at customers worldwide, including over 20 systems that are being used to process 300mm wafers.

Detroit MEMS lab

A state-of-the-art laboratory for commercial development of MEMS and microsystems opened at Detroit's Wayne State University.

It is being helped by Delphi Corp, of Troy, Michigan which will also use the space to adapt its sensor technologies

to biomedicine and other markets.

The facility is part of the Smart Sensors and Integrated Microsystems (SSIM) programme at the University's College of Engineering and operates under the direction of Professor Greg Auner. It

includes 4,000ft² of new Class 10 and 100 clean room and four other lab spaces. Delphi donated about \$7m worth of equipment to make the SSIM expansion possible. The donations and modifications to existing equipment have moved the lab up to 6-inch wafer capability.

Heavy losses for Memscap laid at door of wafer fab start up

Memscap SA, has reported increased losses for its 2002 financial year, on a sales revenue that was down 40% on 2001.

Sales revenue was about \$6.1m in 2002 compared with a figure of about \$10.5m at current conversion rates from the Euro.

In 2001 the net loss was about \$200,000, but in the latest

financial year the net loss has climbed to about \$29.7m Memscap said.

One major contribution to the loss was the start-up cost of its MEMS wafer fab at nearby Bernin, which the company estimated at about \$5.1m

The company commented that revenue for Q4, 2002 showed progress, compared to

previous quarters and it expects this to continue through 2003.

Last month Memscap cut its work force by 27% to reduce costs.

However, "The work accomplished throughout 2002 enables us to confidently start this new year," said Memscap CEO Jean Michel Karam.

Share in surfaces

SCP Global Technologies has completed the acquisition of Mattson Technology's Wet Products division. Its acquisition gives it second place and a 20% market share of 14 suppliers. Mattson's strategy will now

focus on its enabling RTP and strip processing tools and technologies. SCP GT has secured \$50m investment from VC 3i and Vanatage Point Venture for new manufacturing of surface preparation equipment.

Infineon

Infineon is reported to be considering Switzerland as an area to relocate its corporate headquarters, along with locations in South East Asia and the US, says reports from news agency Presstext.europe